

Lime works of D. Robertson and Co. just west of Milton destroyed by fire; nobody injured in afternoon blaze

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of *The Champion* and other publications to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

August 1899

The extensive lime works of D. Robertson and Co., of Toronto on the C.P.R., three miles west of Milton, were destroyed by fire on Sunday afternoon. None of the employees were near them when the fire broke out, as it did about 20 minutes after the passing of a freight train which went westward through Milton at 3 p.m. Employees at Messrs. Robertson and Co. believe that a spark from the engine started the fire which broke out in the west end of the sheds which stood on three sides of the kiln. All the buildings were burnt to the ground, besides a large supply of wood. When the timbers supporting the kiln were consumed, its walls collapsed.

The loss is very heavy and the owners of the property say that they will look to the railway company to make it good. There was no insurance. The fire could not have occurred at a more awkward time, as orders for lime were coming in faster than they could be filled, though the shipments averaged one car-load per day. Nothing can be done with the kiln destroyed on Sunday, but Messrs. Robertson and Co. have men at work restoring another one which was damaged by a fire some years ago and hope to have it in running order within three weeks. They have made arrangements to procure lime to supply their customers in the meantime and their business will go on as usual.

...

Mr. Henderson, M.P. for Halton, has been very prominent among Opposition speakers throughout the present session of the House of Commons. On Thursday, he made a long speech on preferential trade. He argued that though the mother country gained by the preference given her by the Laurier Government, Canada lost heavily and he urged that it should be mutual, not one-sided. There is not the slightest prospect that Great Britain will do anything of the kind nor is it likely that the Laurier Government will abandon the preference given in its tariff to British productions. Still Mr. Henderson's speech was a

Milton Time Capsules



clever one and his constituents have no reason to be ashamed of the position which he has gained in the House.

...

On Tuesday two boys were brought before Mayor Deacon, charged by Chief Constable Bradley with bathing on Monday within the limits of the corporation. The boys admitted the offence. One took his dip in the pond and the other at the inlet and both pleaded that they did not know that they were violating any bylaw. They were allowed to go on suspended sentence, but in future the by-law will be strictly enforced and fines imposed. The bylaw is rather sweeping in its provisions, perhaps more so than was intended when it was passed, as it prohibits all bathing within the corporation between sunrise and sunset. Bathing suits or any other suits are not mentioned. All bathers, naked or clothed, are liable.

...

At a meeting last week of the Milton board of school trustees it was resolved to engage Miss Florence Deacon, B.A., to teach classics and high school subjects at the Milton public school. This will be a great boon to parents who wish to give their children higher education and do not wish to send them away from home. The new department will be self-sustaining, as the amount of the teacher's salary will be covered by the government and county council grants and the fees of the pupils that have been secured. It is true that the board has been receiving the grants latterly for continuation classes, but the new department will be practically a high school on a small scale and the money will be really earned. Pupils can take all the subjects necessary for the junior leaving examination. (Guarantees for 10 students had been obtained. Miss Deacon's salary is to be \$300 per annum.)

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached by e-mail at jdills@idirect.com.

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Any changes to smoking bylaw now would be a step backward for Milton: councillor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the article concerning town council's reconsideration of the smoking bylaw that appeared last Friday's issue of *The Champion*.

Council has chosen to look at allowing bars and restaurants to construct designated smoking rooms (DSRs) because of the supposed demand from these establishments to have a "level playing field" pertaining to the smoking bylaw.

It seems the bar and restaurants want to be treated the same as the bingo hall — but why stop at the smoking bylaw?

If the bars and restaurants want the same rules applied to everyone, then let's do it.

That means that no one under the age of 18 years would be allowed into a bar or restaurant, no alcohol could be served, 80 per cent of the revenues would be returned to the patrons by means of cash prizes, 3 per cent would be paid to the Town for licencing fees and 10 per cent would be turned over to local non-profit and charitable organizations.

Those are the rules the bingo hall operates under. If we're to accept the argument from the bar and restaurant owners that the same rules should apply to everyone, then they should be prepared to

operate under the same rules as the bingo hall.

That doesn't make sense.

My point is that a bar or restaurant is different from a bingo hall, which serves a different clientele in a completely different environment, and that's why different rules apply.

As to the issue of DSRs, this issue is a lot more complex than council realizes. There are many issues surrounding the introduction of DSRs that council didn't consider, such as the size of the room, the type of ventilation system required, fire escape access, will children be allowed in the DSRs? (as the health risk associated to second-hand smoke is greatly increased when smoking is allowed within a confines room), will employees be forced to work in the DSR? And what protection will be offered to those employees who don't wish to work in those rooms?

These and many other questions have to be addressed prior to council making a decision.

While chairman of the committee that looked at the smoking bylaw issue, I had an opportunity to meet many of the bar and restaurant owners and the majority of them were opposed to the DSR option. A few owners looking to gain an advantage over their com-

petitors are the ones promoting this issue. Supporters of DSRs say it will make for a level playing field, which isn't true.

Only those establishments able to accommodate a DSR and those whose owners have the financial means to construct such a room will benefit. They're the ones promoting this change to the bylaw. Unfortunately, these owners have a supporter on council who's helping to push this agenda forward.

The current bylaw is a good bylaw — it treats all bars and restaurants the same. The majority of the bars and restaurants are complying with the bylaw and we're taking steps to deal with those who aren't.

Most importantly, it's a bylaw that's supported by the vast majority of Miltonians. Any changes at this time would be a step backward and would only benefit a few, to the detriment of many.

To those citizens who support the bylaw and who wish to see our community remain smoke free, contact your local councillor or the town clerk's department and let them know your position.

Let's not allow a few bar and restaurant owners to dictate the quality of life for our community.

Rick Malboeuf
Town and regional councillor

Incentive-based compensation options should be looked at for councillors: reader

Dear Editor:

I was pleased to read Jason Misner's article in the January 28 issue of *The Champion* regarding the formation of a citizens' task force to review pay for regional councillors in Halton.

I believe the task force shouldn't only look at the possibility of salary consistency within Ontario for the councillors, but more importantly look at incentive-based compensation avenues that enhance council's ability to meet the forever-changing challenges of our future.

I'm suggesting that within the councillors' salary there be an allowance for an element of performance-based pay.

ance-based pay.

To attract and keep excellent councillors, there must be an added reason other than they want to make a difference.

It's not a question of possibly spending more money, but rather it's an opportunity to better direct the spending of money.

Enhancing the return on investment as it relates to regional council's salaries should be the filter that Halton Region's CEO Brent Marshall uses as a guide for the task force.

Robert (Bob) A. Beyette
Campbellville

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